



Software will control information flow between allies

by *Fran Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory Information Directorate recently awarded a \$1,312,400 contract to BBN Corp. of Cambridge, Mass., for research involving the creation, negotiation, dissolution, and monitoring of dynamic coalitions.

The 30-month contract, “Multi-Dimensional Security Management and Enforcement,” is funded by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) of Arlington, Va. Technology developed will support the Dynamic Coalitions portion of DARPA’s Information Assurance and Survivability (IA&S) program.

“BBN will design a set of software tools that allows for the management and enforcement of dynamic coalition environments,” said Scott S. Shyne, program manager in the

director’s Information Grid Division. “Military coalition operations can require rapid reconfiguration in policy level agreements between nations as the shape and structure of a coalition changes.”

“Future conflicts will necessitate the capability to dynamically reconfigure alliances to accept new coalition partners and delete others,” Shyne said. “In addition, a coalition member may choose to share information at various classification levels with some partners and not with others. With automated policy management software tools, it should be possible to allow these policies to be rapidly updated to dynamically control the flow of information between allied partners.” @